



Remembering
Dr. Luis Colom,
Page 3



Monday, March 31, 2014



SGA FAILS TO MEET QUORUM

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VOL.66, ISSUE 25 | SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE | UTBCOLLEGIAN.COM

'GROWTH, NOT RETRACTION'



BLANCA VILLARREAL/COLLEGIAN

Members of the UT-Brownsville Women's Volleyball Team warm up before an offseason practice session Thursday afternoon in the Garza Gym. The UTB and UT-Pan American volleyball teams will merge when the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley opens in Fall 2015. Story on page 10.

EDITORIAL

OH, BTW, TUITION'S GOING UP! ;)

"I am a student just like any other on the UT-Brownsville campus. I did exceptional schoolwork when I was in high school and earned scholarships that pay for my tuition and fees in their entirety. I haven't had to pay for tuition, fees, housing or books since I first stepped

onto this campus. It has been great. When I heard that tuition was going to be increased by 7 percent, I didn't give it a second thought. My school is taken care of no matter how high tuition may rise."

See Editorial Cartoon, Page 4

How many students at UTB fully relate to this? We can't imagine it being very many. Many students who receive financial aid still shell out money for things it doesn't cover. They might also be upset

by an increase in tuition of which they had no prior knowledge.

On March 20, UTB administrators told *The Collegian* a proposal to raise tuition by 7 percent would be submitted to the University of Texas System on

See EDITORIAL, Page 4

Only 30% met FAFSA priority deadline

No guarantee others will receive timely award

By Cleiri Quezada
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

Only 30 percent of the 7,225 UT-Brownsville students who are eligible for financial aid completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the priority deadline of March 1.

UTB Financial Aid Director Arnoldo Trejo said about 85 percent of the student population receives some type of financial assistance and believes the reasons why 70 percent of students have not applied yet might be because they haven't filed their tax returns or they procrastinate.

"And I'll be the first one to admit that these forms are not the most user-friendly forms," Trejo told *The Collegian* in a phone interview Wednesday. "The

See FAFSA, Page 9

Students oppose tuition hike at forum

By Cleiri Quezada
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

Twenty-eight students showed up at a forum Thursday to oppose UT-Brownsville's proposed 7 percent tuition increase for the 2014-15 academic year.

Angela Ruiz, a junior art major, said she does not support the Tuition and Fee Policy Advisory Committee proposal because UTB does not offer the same resources as other universities.

"I don't think I would be willing to pay up to something where I don't have all the resources I need in this university," Ruiz said. "We're actually sharing a rec [center] with [Texas Southmost College] and, obviously, we're running low on that but I think, when we can come to the merger, when we actually become a full university, I think that's when you can say let's [raise] the tuition because the quality will be better that way."

See FORUM, Page 9



Alexandra Rodriguez



Angela Ruiz



Guillermo Castillo Cynthia Nava Nathaly Uriegas



BLANCA VILLARREAL/COLLEGIAN PHOTOS

UT-Brownsville Vice President for Business Affairs Rosemary Martinez addresses students' questions and concerns Thursday regarding the proposed 7 percent tuition hike for the 2014-2015 academic year during the first of two forums on the plan.



ON CAMPUS

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>>> POLICE REPORTS: Two custodians were reported to be trapped inside the Life and Health Sciences elevator.

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>>> The community speaks out against UTB's proposed tuition hike

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>>> Golf teams struggle in Primm Battle

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Obituary

Dr. Luis Colomn, vice president for research

Dr. Luis V. Colom, 61, UT-Brownsville’s vice president for Research, dean of the College of Biomedical Sciences and dean of the College of Nursing, died of cancer Thursday at his home in Brownsville.

A member of the UTB faculty since 2001, Dr. Colom was the driving force in expanding biomedical research at the university, expanding the Biological Sciences Department and directing the development of the Center for Biomedical Studies. During his time at UTB, he served as the director for Biomedical Studies, and in 2010 was named the first vice president for research. He played a leadership role in this field both nationally and internationally.

During his tenure as dean and vice president, Dr. Colom organized symposiums on Alzheimer’s disease; he believed it was vital for the university’s role in the community while giving students and faculty an opportunity to showcase their research.

He received numerous professional honors, among them the Houston Endowment Chair in Science and Engineering in 2009 and the Virginia and Ernest Cockrell Award from the Methodist Hospital Foundation in Houston in 1996.

Dr. Colom grew up in Uruguay, where he received a medical degree in 1979 and a doctoral degree in biology in 1994 from the University of Uruguay. Before coming to UTB, he held academic and research positions at the University of Uruguay, the University of Calgary in Canada and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Among his students and mentees was Ivan Valdez, who graduated from UTB in 2010 with a degree in biology and is pursuing a doctorate in biomedical and biological sciences at Harvard University.

“I worked with him for two years and he always had so much support for his

students,” Valdez told *The Collegian* via telephone late Thursday. “You can ask any student that has worked in his lab. They all know how kind, how supportive he really is. And I really owe much of my academic success to him.”

Valdez said Dr. Colom continued to help him after he graduated from UTB.

“I could always count on him for letters of recommendation, for fellowships and every time I always would get feedback from the people who reviewed my applications and they would say: ‘Your letters of recommendation were very strong,’” Valdez said. “This just shows me how much Dr. Colom cared about me and it means so much to me.

“I just recently visited him back in Texas, in Brownsville. We already knew that he had pancreatic cancer and even though he was going through that, he still offered to take care of my mom. My mom, because I mentioned to him that my mom was getting sick, and since he is a medical doctor so he just said, ‘Tell your mom that she can just stop by in my office at any time and I can just talk to her, make sure she is OK.’ ... Who does that, you know? And we will miss him; UTB will not be the same without him. He had so much energy, so much enthusiasm and love for what he does. Definitely a great leader and he inspired so many people.”

Dr. Colom was preceded in death by his father, Vicente Colom, and his niece, Soledad Colom.

He is survived by his wife, Maria, and his two children, Cecilia and Sebastian; mother, Angela Scalone; brother, Carlos Colom, and his wife, Graciela; and a nephew, Federico.

A service celebrating his life will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union’s Gran Salón. Sunset Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

STUDENT REPS MEET WITH UT-RGV CANDIDATE

UT System: Finalists for president to be announced in late April

By Anthony Cano
THE COLLEGIAN

Six students from UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan American who serve on the UT-Rio Grande Valley Presidential Search Committee have met with one of the finalists for president of the new university.

Stephanie Mendez, president of UTB’s Student Government Association and a committee member, told *The Collegian* on March 24 that the student panel was scheduled to meet with the candidate last week and give its feedback to the committee for the students’ voice to be taken into consideration.

On March 17, a Rio Grande Valley newspaper identified four of the five presidential finalists as UT-Pan American President Robert Nelsen, Georgia Regents University President Ricardo Azziz, former University of Alabama President Guy Bailey and former Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera.

Azziz has since formally withdrawn from candidacy.

“While I am appreciative to the University of Texas System for their consideration in the search for an inaugural president of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, I have decided not to pursue the opportunity further. It is an honor to be identified with such an esteemed group of leaders and I am confident that the System will select an individual who will create a university

“We have been extremely pleased with the caliber of candidates we are attracting.”
-Francisco Cigarroa
UT System Chancellor



that Texans will be proud to call their own,” Azziz said in a statement e-mailed to *The Collegian* on Thursday.

Asked who the fifth candidate is, Mendez replied: “I don’t want to talk about that. I signed a nondisclosure agreement. This is supposed to be confidential. Once we have the two finalists, everything will be public and everybody will know who these candidates are.”

On Thursday, Jenny Caputo, executive director of public affairs for the UT System, declined to confirm or deny the identities of the candidates when asked by *The Collegian*.

In a March 7 UT System news release, Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa said he is committed to working with the board of regents to find an exceptional leader for this historic role.

“We have been extremely pleased with the caliber of candidates we are attracting, and I am confident that we will find the right person for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Cigarroa stated in the news release.

Caputo said the finalists will be announced to the public in late April.

The new university, created from the consolidation of UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan American, is scheduled to open in Fall 2015.

A writer, and then some

Performance artist concludes second year of series



RICK SALDIVAR/COLLEGIAN

Performance artist Tammy Melody Gomez autographs a poster advertising her reading after the event Thursday night in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

By Rick Saldivar
THE COLLEGIAN

Performance artist Tammy Melody Gomez concluded the second year of the Writers Live Series with a poetry reading Thursday night in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

Gomez, born in the West Texas city of Stamford, is a writer who hosts and directs literary performance events primarily in Fort Worth, where she now lives.

“Our family moved to Fort Worth when I was 4 years old,” Gomez told *The Collegian* in an interview after the

See **WRITER**, Page 11

Students invited to health disparities workshop

A daylong Health Disparities Researcher Information and Training Workshop will take place April 7 at the UT School of Public Health Regional Academic Health Center in Brownsville.

Co-sponsored by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), UT-Brownsville and the UT School of Public Health, the workshop will provide critical information about the academic training, professional opportunities and personal rewards of a career in health disparities research.

The event will feature an internationally renowned research scientist Dr. Eloy Rodriguez, the James A. Perkins Professor in the Medical Ethnobotany and Plant Medicinal Biochemistry Department at Cornell University. A native of the Rio Grande Valley, Rodriguez will discuss his research on Valley medicinal herbs for the treatment of leukemia and breast cancer. The ultimate goal of his scientific research is the identification of nature-based medicinal therapies that will cure or extend the life of patients suffering from leukemia, breast cancer or diabetes type 2.

Rodriguez has published more than 175 research articles, co-written two books and written various chapters and popular articles. He has established two field research laboratories, one in the Amazon of Peru and another in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

He will speak at 1 p.m. in the RAHC’s Flexible Room.

Raymond Garza, a UT-San Antonio

professor of psychology who has mentored a large number of Latino/Hispanic graduate students, will also share his personal and professional insights with workshop participants.

Garza will speak at 10:30 a.m., also in the RAHC’s Flexible Room.

The workshop will also feature a panel of Hispanic graduate students and past HACU interns who will share their experiences and knowledge, including past HACU intern Damaris Garcia, currently employed as a senior research assistant at the UT School of Public Health.

“Thanks to HACU, I was able to intern with world-renowned institutions such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) while pursuing my undergraduate and graduate degrees,” Garcia said. “I highly encourage students to come to this workshop and learn about the great opportunities that HACU can offer as well as learn more about health disparities and their effect and importance within our community.”

The workshop is free and open to all UTB students. Registration is online at www.hacu.net/healthdisparities. Students must be in good academic standing (preference will be given to students with 3.0 grade-point average or higher). Breakfast and lunch will be provided for registered participants. Space is limited to 50 students.

Participants will be included in a drawing for several VISA gift cards at the

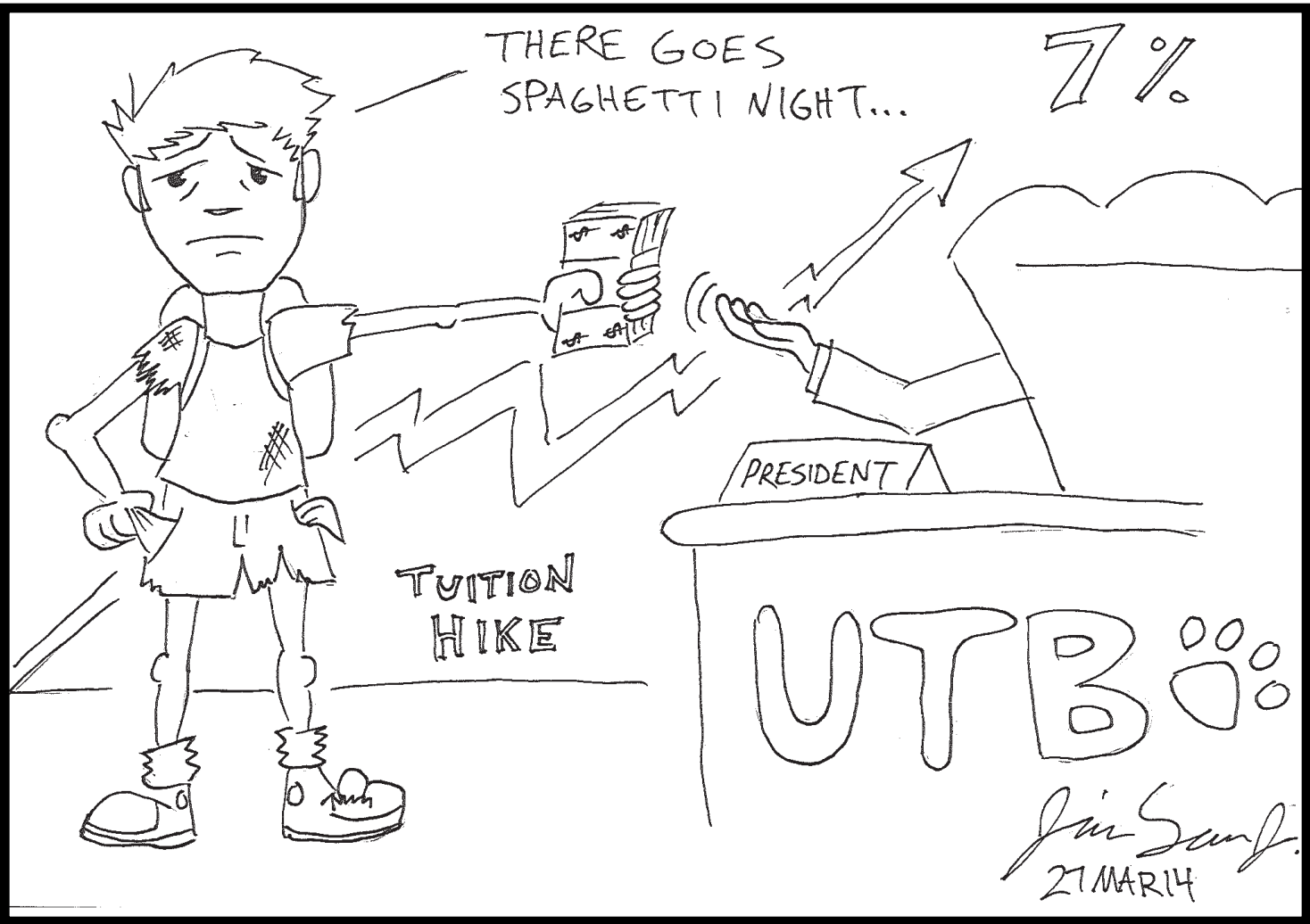


COURTESY PHOTO

Damaris E. Garcia, MPH, a senior research assistant at the UT School of Public Health Regional Academic Health Center in Brownsville, is shown during her internship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

end of the workshop.

For more information, call Senior Research Assistant Tonantzin E. Juarez at 882-5188 or e-mail her at tonantzin.e.juarez@uth.tmc.edu.



EDITORIAL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

March 26 upon the recommendation of the Tuition and Fee Policy Advisory Committee. The committee includes administrators, faculty and members of the Student Government Association. That alone does not seem odd. What does seem odd, however, is that the university waited until the week the proposal was due to give students the opportunity to comment and ask questions about the tuition hike in forums held Thursday and Friday. We were told the tuition proposal process began last semester, so wouldn't it make sense to have initially involved the student body back then? Why would the university leave students out of the loop for so long in regard to whether tuition should be raised?

Students undoubtedly have questions as to why tuition is being raised. An

obvious question might be, "What are we getting in exchange for our increased tuition?" *The Collegian* reported last week that increases in tuition are being implemented to match tuition at UT-Pan American. UTB and UTPA are to merge in Fall 2015 into UT-Rio Grande Valley. Why must UTB's tuition be raised to match UTPA's? Why can't UTPA's tuition be lowered to match UTB's? We would bet some serious money that UTPA students would be really happy with lower tuition and UTB students would have nothing to complain about.

The Collegian also reported that tuition increases would go toward providing \$1,000 scholarships for 1,572 students in good academic standing to attend summer classes and help them complete their degree in four years. That's \$1,572,000. Here's an idea: Why don't we just keep the \$6 million UTB President Juliet V. Garcia said the university plans to pay the City of Brownsville for its

"donation" of the Lincoln Park land and provide \$1,000 scholarships for 6,000 students?

We could be fishing for reasons to not raise tuition for our fellow students, but no more than it seems administration is fishing for reasons/excuses to raise them.

Why wouldn't the SGA, elected representatives of the student body, be proactive in getting students informed of tuition increases earlier in the process? Students might begin to think their representatives are out of touch with their constituents and don't pay tuition.

In reality, most students don't take the initiative to become involved. But, if UTB wants to remain true to its mission statement, which includes developing knowledgeable citizens who are engaged in civic life, it should give students ample time to defend themselves against tuition increases brought about by people who don't pay them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Texas' 'cruel' laws against women

Whose Lord was listening when the Whole Women's Health Clinic in McAllen closed?

Patricia De La Torre happily said, "The Lord answered our prayers ..."

She or He is not the Lord I know, for that deity would not permit thousands of Rio Grande Valley low- and middle-income women to be subjected to the cruel laws passed by the recent Texas Legislature.

Nationwide media have highlighted the difficulties Rio Grande Valley women have in obtaining contraception, medical exams and abortions.

I hope my Lord begins to listen to these women's needs, and that these restrictive laws will be reversed.

Eugene "Gene" Novogrodsky
Brownsville

•FIND THE MYSTERY WORD!
•HINT: team-oriented!
•••••

Do you feel well-represented by the Student Government Association?

THINK

"No, because I've really never heard of it before. I mean, I'm sure there would be one, but I haven't heard of where they meet or haven't seen any postings of anything. I don't even know who are actually in the student government. I can't tell you any specific person, so I don't know too much about it."



Joann Alanis
Exercise science freshman



"La verdad, no sé lo que es el Student Government Association, así que no creo que esté bien representado por ellos."

Javier Talancon
Estudiante de ciencias biomédicas de segundo año



"I don't think I am because I don't know who exactly they are or what they do."

Samantha Valdez
Texas Southmost College freshman



"No, because I don't know who they are and I've never heard of them. I can't say that I am or I'm not, so no."

Jesus Fernandez
Nursing sophomore

--Compiled by Rick Saldivar
--Photos by Alberto Garcia



Community response to the proposed 7% tuition increase:



Daniel Joseph Lopez " The goal of the new proposal is to equalize tuition and fees with the University of Texas Pan-American." = most retarded reason they could have given for raising tuition.
March 24 at 10:03pm · Like · 1

Olga Cruz Sadly the original purpose of UTB is being lost, to serve our community. It is the same everywhere UT is at, the locals can not afford to go there. UT is slowly elbowing out the local youth. They do not want poor youth, they want to edge out the locals and make room for recruiting from elsewhere, athletes, scientists, mathematicians. Ever heard of townies?
Yesterday at 12:45am · Like

Myra Shelburne · 2 mutual friends
We just had an increase in of about 3% for fall 2012 and spring 2013 respectively. The integration does not occur until fall of 2015, so why not wait until the UT system decides what the tuition is going to be for UT-RGV, instead of raising it now and then again later. It just doesn't make much sense.
8 hours ago · Like

Jesse Rodriguez This is why our kids are living town, this is so bull...
March 24 at 2:05pm · Like · 1

THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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SOCIAL MEDIA



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Science career lecture
Gregory S. May, a professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, will present a lecture titled **“My Path to a Career in Science,”** from noon to 2 p.m. today in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia. The lecture is sponsored by UT-Brownsville’s **College of Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions**. For more information, call Special Projects Coordinator **Maria Julia Villalon** at 882-7671.

‘Portion Distortion’ lecture
Student Health Services, the **Campus Suicide Prevention Program** and the **Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Program** continue their **wellness lecture series** from noon to 1 p.m. today in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia with the lecture, **“Portion Distortion.”** Admission is free, lunch will be provided and there will be door prizes. For more information, call 882-7643.-

Registration schedule
UT-Brownsville’s **registration** dates for **summer and fall classes** are as follows: Tuesday, open for students who have completed 90 or more hours; April 7, for those who have completed 60 or more hours; April 14, 30 or more hours; and April 21, open for all students.

Scholarship deadline
UT-Brownsville has extended the **general scholarship deadline** to Tuesday. These scholarships are made available to students through donations from corporations, businesses, community organizations, individual donors and the university. For more information, call the **Financial Aid Office** at 882-8277.

Autism Awareness
Light It Up Blue, an exposition and fundraiser for the **Moody Clinic** conducted by UTB’s **Difficult Dialogues for Valuing Diversity** class and the **Communication Council**, will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Main Building courtyard. The event, held in observance

of **Autism Awareness Month**, will feature speakers on the disorder, music, prizes and information booths. For more information, call Communication Associate Professor **John Cook** at 882-8851.

Research symposium
UT-Brownsville’s 16th annual **Research Symposium** starts at 8 a.m. Friday in the Student Union’s Gran Salón. Presentations are welcome in any of the following areas: biological and health sciences; engineering and technology; humanities and social sciences; education and business; physical and mathematical sciences. Students and faculty who have participated in scholarly research at UTB or other academic institutions are invited to present their work. Each participant will receive a certificate of participation. For more information, call Special Projects Coordinator **Maria Julia Villalon** at 882-7671.

Research Seminar
“The Role of Maternal Sleep on the Preschool Child’s Obesiogenic Micro-environment,” a seminar presented by **Martina R. Gallagher**, an assistant professor of nursing systems at the UT Health Science Center at Houston, is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. Friday in Sabal Hall 1.102. This seminar will provide 1.0 contact hours of nursing continued education. For more information, call Nursing Department Academic Department Liaison **Lourdes Requena** at 882-5070.

AMazing Festival
The **American Marketing Association** at UT-Brownsville will host the **AMazing Festival** from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday at Galeria 409, located at 409 E.13th St. in Brownsville. The event will feature local bands, artists and vendors. Admission is \$5. Student organizations may reserve vendor spots for \$15 and businesses for \$40. Proceeds from the festival will go toward expenses for the organization’s trip to the AMA International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans. For more information, e-mail the American Marketing

Association at amautb@gmail.com.

United to Serve
The **Center for Civic Engagement** and the **Office of Student Engagement** will host United to Serve service projects from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 12 at the **Ozanam Center, Community Development Corp. of Brownsville, Alta Vista Nursing Home, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Brownsville Historical Association, Carlotta Petrina Museum, Spanish Meadows** and **Ebony Lake nursing homes**, and the **Brownsville Animal Shelter**. United to Serve is a UT System-wide volunteer initiative involving students, administrators, faculty and staff. Volunteers may register online at: unitedtoserve.eventbrite.com. For more information, call the Center for Civic Engagement at 882-4300.

Chalk Art Festival
The **Children’s Museum of Brownsville** will hold its sixth **Chalk Art Festival** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 12. Participants can display their artwork and compete for cash prizes and more. The event will also feature games, music and food. Pre-registration is available online at www.cmofbrownsville.com or by calling the museum at 548-9300. The cost per square will be \$10 for children and \$15 for youth and adults. Volunteers may register by e-mail at aracelychildrensmuseum@gmail.com. For more information, call Executive Director Felipe Pena III at 548-9300. The museum is located in Dean Porter Park, 501 Ringgold St.

Casa Bella applications
The **Office of Residential Life** is accepting applications for **Casa Bella student housing** for returning and new students until April 15. A total of \$220 (\$20 application fee and \$200 housing deposit) is due when the application is submitted. For more information, call 882-7191, visit the Casa Bella Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/utbcasabella or visit the office at 2651 FJRM Ave.

--Compiled by Ana Cavazos

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 17 and 22.

March 17
10:40 a.m.: A University Police officer responded to the Biomedical Building in regard to a fire alarm. The officer noticed a heavy amount of steam on the first floor near the elevator. A facilities staff member who was in the area had already opened mechanical room 1.147, which was filled with steam. The building was cleared of personnel. The staff member said he had been standing in the loading dock area and heard a loud noise in the mechanical room. Upon entering, he noticed the room had already been filled with steam, causing the fire alarm to activate. The facilities director said the problem was caused by a faulty water level indicator that had popped due to rising pressure within the water heating system. The Environmental Health and Safety coordinator arrived on the scene and after evaluating the incident, allowed everyone to re-enter the building.

March 18
10 p.m.: A University Police officer was closing the doors to Sabal Hall when he noticed the second floor entrance had a damaged door. The double doors were loose from the middle beam and difficult

to secure. The shift supervisor and maintenance were contacted.

March 20
1:19 a.m.: Two custodians were reported to be trapped inside the Life and Health Sciences elevator. University guards attempted to open the first and second floors to the elevator but were unsuccessful. Physical Plant then contacted a University Police officer and advised him to turn the power off to the elevator and turn it back on after half a minute. The officer attempted to reset the elevator and it did not work. Physical Plant staff members then arrived on campus and were able to open the doors at 2 a.m. The custodians reported they were fine and did not need emergency medical services. Physical Plant advised the elevator would remain off and the elevator company would come by the next day to check out the problem.

2:50 p.m.: A student reported that she was assaulted by one of her classmates in the Life and Health Sciences Building. The student said her classmate had grabbed her forearm and tried to lead her away from the area but she resisted and pulled away from him but he continued to try to push her and pull on her to get her to accompany him. When her classmate noticed others were paying attention, he

walked away.

March 22
4:23 a.m.: A University Police officer on patrol on International Boulevard came across a car accident across from Texas Southmost College’s Tandy Hall. The officer advised UTB dispatch that a gray Chevrolet Silverado had struck a black Dodge Ram. The owner of the Chevrolet stated he had run to the Stripes convenience store to check on his injury and requested emergency medical services. The owner stated the man driving the Dodge had fled on foot. The Chevrolet driver said that he accidentally struck the Dodge when its driver slammed on the brakes.

4 p.m.: University Police responded to the Casa Bella student housing complex in regard to water damage to a student’s room. The resident of the room reported he went into his room and noticed the bathroom floor and the carpet in his room were wet. He said the lights to his bedroom and bathroom were not working. Further investigation showed that the water had leaked from a second floor apartment’s bathroom. A resident assistant reported the incident to University Police, which contacted Physical Plant and requested a plumber and an electrician.

--Compiled by Amanda Arredondo

Summer I 2014 ACADEMIC CALENDAR



Registration: 90+ Completed hours (graduates and seniors)	April 1 to May 21
Registration: 60+ Completed hours (graduates, seniors and juniors)	April 7 to May 21
Registration: 30+ Completed hours (graduates, seniors, juniors and sophomores)	April 14 to May 21
Registration: Open to all	April 21 to May 21
No registration activity	May 22-May 28
Registration payment deadline	May 23
Memorial Day (campus closed; no classes)	May 26
Registration VOIDS due to non-payment (classes will be dropped)	May 27
Add/drop (\$5 add/drop fee charged for each transaction)	May 29-June 2
First class day	June 2
Add/drop payment deadline	June 2
Add/drop VOIDS due to non-payment	June 3
Official record date	June 5
Deadline to withdraw without recorded grade	June 5
Deadline for pass/fail petitions	June 5
Audit course processing begins	June 5
Deadline to withdraw with a "W"	June 23
Independence Day (campus closed; no classes)	July 4
Last class day	July 8
Final exams	July 9
Grades submitted by faculty on UTB Online 24 hours after final exam completed	July 10
Grades available on UTB Online	July 11

Note: May and Long Summer calendars are available online.

No SGA quorum two weeks in a row

Stalls resolution on senate banquet



HÉCTOR AGUILAR/COLLEGIAN

Alexandra Rodríguez, Student Government Association vice president of administration, asks the senate if there are any issues to address during Tuesday's meeting.

By Anthony Cano

THE COLLEGIAN

A resolution authorizing the purchase of plaques for the upcoming Student Government Association banquet went nowhere because the senate failed to meet quorum during its scheduled meeting March 24.

It is the second week in a row that the SGA has failed to meet quorum and the second time the resolution has been placed on the agenda. The banquet is scheduled April 12.

The SGA had no quorum during the March 17 meeting.

"There's some students who have not been able to make the meetings, so they're currently working on what's going to happen with that," Stephen Cisneros, assistant director of Residential Life and temporary SGA adviser, explained to *The Collegian*.

SGA President Stephanie Mendez could not be reached for comment on the matter by press time Thursday.

Members of the SGA who attended the March 24 meeting were Mendez, Vice President of Administration Alexandra Rodríguez, Vice President of Finance Jacqueline Sanchez and Vice President of Policy and Procedure Philip Martinez.

During senator reports, Jacqueline Sanchez said the Tuition and Fees Policy Advisory Committee would meet to gather student feedback for UT-Brownsville's proposed 7 percent increase in tuition for the 2014-2015 academic year.

"This is not set in stone," Mendez previously said of the fee hike after the SGA meeting. "I mean, we will be having a public event where students can share their concerns and voice their opinions."

Asked if a tuition increase was a significant piece of information for the SGA to share with students, Mendez replied: "Yeah, of course. ... It was never brought up [this semester]."

She said senators who attend committee meetings report on them during SGA meetings.

"Maybe the timing wasn't good," Mendez said, referring to the tuition plan not being addressed in SGA meetings all semester. "You know, when the [tuition and fees] committee met in December it was already during [winter] break and then the semester starts. The beginning of the semester you have events and then you have your classes and you have other priorities and maybe it wasn't prioritized as it should've been."

The SGA is scheduled to meet again at 1 p.m. today in Cortez Hall 118.

De Pau

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College of Science,
Mathematics, and
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College of Nursing

April 16
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Breaking the glass ceiling

‘Sacrifices have to be made,’ women leaders say



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

UT-Brownsville Academic Advising Director Selma D. Yznaga (right) explains how she began pursuing her career during the Women’s Leadership Panel March 21 in Salón Cassia. The rest of the panel consisted of (from left) Lecia L. Chaney, a partner at the law firm of Colvin, Chaney, Saenz & Rodriguez LLP, KGBT-TV Channel 4 Anchor/Reporter Mary Avila and Brownsville Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Maria H. Joiner. The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement.

By Anthony Cano
THE COLLEGIAN

Women can have it all—career and family—but not without sacrifices, an audience was told during a panel discussion held March 21 as part of the university’s observance of Women’s History Month.

The Women’s Leadership Panel consisted of Lecia L. Chaney, an attorney and partner with the law firm of Colvin, Chaney, Saenz & Rodriguez LLP; Mary Avila, morning news anchor for KGBT-TV Channel 4; Maria Hall Joiner, president and CEO of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce; and Selma Yznaga, UT-Brownsville’s director of Academic Advising.

Alexandra Rodriguez, vice president of administration for the Student Government Association, who served as

moderator, asked the women about the glass ceiling in the professional realm.

“Women should be able to have children and have a family and have this stellar career and bump up against the glass ceiling and break the glass ceiling and I think that those are worthy and achievable goals, but it is really, really difficult to have it all and if you choose to go that path to be a mom and to have a family and to be a career woman, you do have to make sacrifices,” Yznaga replied. “... You decide where your glass ceiling is.”

Avila, a new mom, said she loves her job but admits juggling her career and motherhood is “rough.”

She challenged women “to be assertive and don’t let men intimidate you.”

“Own it, be assertive and don’t second-guess yourself. That would be my advice,”

See WOMEN, Page 9

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



MAGALY ROSALES/COLLEGIAN

Members of the Campus Activities Board include (front row, from left) President Juan Carlos Hernández and Vice President Vanessa Sandoval. Middle row: Adrian Pérez, Secretary Nancy Aldape, Liliana Abarca, Treasurer Rubi Hernández, Isaac García and Jorge Ibarra. Back row: Ixel De La Fuente, Melissa Lamas, Magan Galván, Crystal Chávez and Ana Alamilla.

Name: Campus Activities Board (C.A.B.)
Purpose: To create a fun and happy environment for the students of UTB and surrounding community and to distract students from their stressful days in class.

Established: 1995

President: J.C. Hernandez

Vice President: Vanessa Sandoval

Secretary: Nancy Aldape

Treasurer: Rubi Hernandez

Adviser: Cristina Rivera, Student Engagement administrative assistant

Events: Orange Crush, Orange Squeeze, Movies Under the Stars, Halloween Havoc, Cupid’s Corner and Grand

Magnolia Ball (formerly Bougainvillea Ball).

Community Service: Boo at the Zoo, Beach Cleanup and volunteering opportunities on campus

Meetings: 3 p.m. Monday in Salón Jacaranda (for members only).

Requirements: Prospective members must be students in good academic standing, have at least a 2.0 grade-point average and submit an application.

For more information: visit the C.A.B. Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cab.utb

--Compiled by Amanda Arredondo

Cueto parking crunch relief in sight

City buys adjacent lot for use by building’s staff

By Victoria Brito
THE COLLEGIAN

The City of Brownsville has approved the purchase of the corner lot next to the Cueto Building to build a parking lot for the by university staff and visitors.

Oscar Muñoz sold the lot to the city for \$155,000, city officials said.

“The parking lot is going to be utilized mostly for activity that occurs within the Cueto Building,” City Manager Charlie Cabler said in a phone interview Wednesday with *The Collegian*. “Parking for university staff. ... They can accommodate a certain amount of vehicles there.”

UTB leases the Cueto Building, located at 1301 E. Madison St., and the adjacent Lucena Cottage from the city at a cost of \$7,715 per month. The lease began Sept. 1, 2013. As of Feb. 28, 2014, the city has received \$46,290 from the university in lease payments, which are up to date, Cabler said. The parking lot will be included in the lease, at additional no cost to the university.

“It’s not a parking lot right now, really; it’s just dirt.” Cabler said. “It’s a makeshift parking lot. We want to add some feature to it.”

The city will be request bids for



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

The City of Brownsville has approved the purchase of a lot next to the Cueto Building to create a parking lot for use by the building’s staff. The Cueto is located at 1301 E. Madison St.

improvement to the lot.

“We’re evaluating that right now,” Cabler said. “We’re going to go on proposals. We’re trying to get the aspects, identify the look it’s going to have, the landscaping it’s going to have, parking lot accommodations. We’re easing into that process right now.”

UTB has a four-year lease on the building, with an option to extend it for four additional years in 2017.

“We’re leasing to them but in fairness, we need to offer them parking,” Cabler said. “Right now, all they can do is park in the street.”

Asked if the lot will private and for

UTB’s use alone, Cabler replied: “Not necessarily. We haven’t addressed that yet. We don’t see more than 20 to 25 parking spaces there, right now. We’ll try to accommodate more parking spaces, if possible, depending on the design, but we’re not just going to say anyone can park there.”

It is unclear whether a parking permit will be needed for the parking lot. University Assistant Police Chief Michael Holguin did not return calls seeking comment on the permit issue.

Estela Martinez, coordinator for the Center of Civic Engagement, works in the Lucena Cottage.

“If I get here early enough, I don’t have to worry about that,” Martinez said of the inconvenience in the current lack of a parking lot. “Because the Cueto does have a lot of staff and so do we, here at the Center for Civic Engagement, we have students and we really avoid inviting visitors over here and try to host meetings over on campus instead ... rather than invite them over here because of the parking. Even us, just leaving for a meeting, it’s really difficult.”

Employees currently have to park their cars on the street due to lack of a parking lot.

“For me, sometimes I have to park in the red,” Martinez said, “which is unfortunate, but I know I’m risking a citation, but I do when I have to get work done and I can’t be driving around downtown to find a parking space.”

The Center for Civic Engagement staff is currently in the Lucena Cottage while the Institutional Advancement staff is housed in the Cueto Building. Between 20 and 30 staff work in the buildings and parking is scarce in the area.

“The city was very generous when they did purchase the buildings to increase the number of spaces in front of the building and post signs that said it was specifically for the Cueto,” Martinez said. “When University Relations came on board, they added a couple of more spaces.”

FAFSA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FAFSA is a federal document that’s issued by the Department of Education for financial aid purposes and we don’t have any local control as to say what goes in them and not but nonetheless, we had a whole series of workshops in the months of February and March to get the word out and to assist students with the completion of that document.”

Students who did not complete their FAFSA by March 1 cannot be guaranteed that their financial aid will come in on time to meet tuition payment deadlines. “Don’t be one of those students that applies in July and then expects for their

aid to be processed because it won’t be processed,” Trejo said. “I mean, it will, well into the fall semester, but when is it when you need to pay your tuition, fees and get your books and supplies? It’s at the beginning of the classes.”

Sophomore engineering technology major Diego Ramon has not completed his FAFSA because his parents just filed their income tax return.

“I’m in the process of [applying for financial aid], but it’s gonna take awhile,” said Ramon, who hopes to complete the application by the end of this week.

Trejo said the Financial Aid Office is taking a more proactive approach in making sure students complete their FAFSA.

“I can’t sugarcoat that message more,

that’s the way it’s gotta be because it’s gonna bottleneck the system and I would hate for any student not to register or not to enroll because of lack of financial resource,” he said. “We’re in the business of getting people in school, not out of school.”

Edna Cameron, a special education major, says she applies for FAFSA as soon as she is able to.

“As soon as I see that it’s opened to start enrollment and so forth, I start looking into when to re-update my FAFSA,” Cameron said.

As a veteran, she doesn’t have any other income besides her Veterans Affairs monthly check.

Cameron encourages students to file their FAFSA as soon as possible.

“Do it as soon as possible,” she said. “Even if they turned you down, you could always reapply. You never know what’s gonna happen. [You] might not be eligible this term, but [you] might be eligible next term. The worst they can tell you is no.”

Although you’re not guaranteed a timely financial aid award for Fall 2014, Trejo said you can still apply.

“Right now, I think the message is, you didn’t meet the deadline, but if you get the process done today, you’ll have a good likelihood that it will be processed for August.”

To apply, students can visit the Enrollment Services Center @ The Tower and ask for assistance, visit www.fafsa.gov or call 882-8277.

FORUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, tuition and fees for 15 undergraduate semester credit hours would total \$3,161 under the proposal, compared with the current total of \$2,964.

UTB would generate \$2,355,642 in revenue from the proposed increase to fund the expansion of the Link 2 Success initiative, supplemental instruction, additional face-to-face and satellite tutoring, enhanced online tutoring, student employment initiatives and implementation of a summer scholarship program.

Graduate students would also see an increase in tuition with the new proposal. They would pay \$329 more than the \$2,232 they were charged last fall for nine semester credit hours.

“There’s one fee request from the Graduate [Studies] Office--it’s a graduate application fee that will be increasing from \$30 to \$50,” said Budget and Resource Planning Director Tomas Guajardo. “This increase will generate almost \$15,000 and will help fund the Embark application system for the graduate students. [Graduate Studies Dean] Dr. [Charles] Lackey has submitted this proposal for your consideration and this would help with the initiatives for the graduate office.”

Arlene Ready, co-director of Learning Enrichment and a member of the tuition and fee committee, presented a slide show on the Link2Success initiative to show students where part of the tuition revenue would go to if the proposal is approved by the UT System board of regents in May.

L2S serves about 2,500 of 8,500 students attending UTB and provides part-time tutoring jobs to 40 to 50 students, paying them between \$10 and \$12 an hour.

Sophomore physics major Guillermo Castillo said the number of classes he takes per semester depends on the amount of money he makes from his two-part time jobs off campus. He said not everyone can afford the higher tuition.

“Not everyone is gonna use the Link2Success, not everyone is gonna

use the summer scholarships, not everyone makes \$11 an hour or \$12 and, for example, my raise would be like a quarter, not a dollar, like a whole dollar. Why those students? Why does it have to be about them? Are we just going to stay out of the university in case [we] can’t afford it anymore?”

The administrators did not reply to Castillo’s questions.

Alexandra Rodriguez, a senior finance and international business major who also serves as vice president of administration for the Student Government Association, asked if the L2S program will continue after UTB and UT-Pan American consolidate into the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley in Fall 2015.

“We’re still waiting to see how that’s gonna play out,” Ready responded. “We’re hoping that it gets continued.”

Junior communication major Israel Guajardo asked if the university could use other funds to provide monies for Learning Enrichment programs rather than raising tuition.

“With all due respect, I thought we were gonna talk about tuition,” Guajardo said. “I understand that Learning Enrichment is a good tool for students to have and works really well for us. I’ve used it myself, [but] we’ve cut the campus in half, we removed 30 percent of faculty, professors, we’re condensed now. So the money we’re saving, wouldn’t that be enough to pay for this?”

UTB Vice President for Business Affairs Rosemary Martinez said the university is not going to use all of the \$783,000 set aside from the new revenue to fund the Learning Enrichment programs.

“None of these dollars will be used for any other university expenditures,” Martinez said. “They clearly would be designated and allocated for the proposal that you see before you.”

She also said the bulk of the money is going be used to fund 1,572 students with \$1,000 scholarships starting in Summer 2015.

“A couple of years ago, the Department of Education piloted summer Pell [grants] and when we did that we had a huge increase in enrollment,” Martinez said. “We added like 1,000 students over the summer and that’s what kind

of demand this is for students wanting to take summer school. The problem that they have is that they don’t have the dollars to do it.”

Senior nursing major Cynthia Nava said she opposes the tuition increase because L2S and the scholarship program will not benefit her.

“I don’t think that it’s gonna benefit the juniors and senior students because they don’t offer nursing classes in the summer, or they don’t have tutors to help us with that or advisers to help us with that,” Nava said. “Actually, [in] the nursing program, you have to do all by yourself and it’s hard. ... I can’t afford [the tuition hike]. It’s not worth it.”

She also worries about how she will pay for her nursing books.

“The thing is that I pay for books and they aren’t cheap because they’re nursing books,” Nava said. “So, I wouldn’t agree to pay \$250 because you don’t have [anything] to offer me.”

Ready said UTB cannot charge a different tuition to each student.

“Unfortunately, we can’t say, ‘You’re only going to pay this much and you’re only going to pay this much,’” she said. “We can’t do that. It’s across-the-board fees. There’s a lot of students that need to use [L2S], so it’s for them.”

In an interview after the forum, senior psychology major Nathaly Uriegas said the community should push the Brownsville Independent School District to ensure their students are college ready to avoid having to pay for learning enrichment programs at the university level.

“Also, as a community, I think we should push BISD to do a better job because, apparently, they are not because the grades of students taking Comp I, Algebra I, History I and History II--their grades are really low,” Uriegas said. “They don’t know how to write, they don’t know how to do math and I think it’s because BISD is not doing a good job or other school districts from the Valley. And I think we should also push on that, that they shouldn’t be educated at the university level to do all of that. They should already come with that knowledge.”

Students also wanted to know why they were not informed earlier about the

proposal.

“I just feel personally that we should be notified of the deadline; that way, if student feedback is to be taken into consideration, [so] the suggestions like the ones I make, can actually be thought of or, you know, modified into the proposal if that’s on the table at all,” Rodriguez said.

The deadline to submit the tuition and fee proposal to the University of Texas System was scheduled for March 26, but Martinez said the UT System extended the deadline to give its universities more time to meet with their students on the tuition and fee proposals.

We haven’t submitted our proposal yet,” she said. “It was due on the 26th, I believe that was yesterday, but they extended the deadline. They didn’t give us a hard deadline; they just said finish up the work that you’re doing before you submit your proposal.”

UT System Executive Director of Public Affairs Jenny Caputo said the tuition proposal deadline originally was set for March 26, but one or two universities requested an extension.

“So there was an original deadline of March 26 for all campuses to have the tuition proposals into academic affairs in the system,” Caputo told *The Collegian* via phone interview Thursday. “What happened is we had a campus or two who were saying they felt did not have enough time to get all the student input that they were looking for, so academic affairs basically said, ‘You know, don’t worry about the March 26 deadline’ to every campus ... which is probably why UT-Brownsville decided to have a forum on fees and tuition.”

Overall, students asked the committee to keep the current tuition until UTB merges with UTPA and provide a quality education.

“Keep the tuition the same. I’d be very happy because I’m not willing to pay more than what I’m paying right now because I know that I’m not gonna be receiving a better education,” Uriegas said..

A second forum was scheduled Friday afternoon.

The Tuition and Fee Policy Advisory Committee will meet this week to finalize

WOMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

she said.

Chaney explained how the dynamics have changed in some professional settings.

“If you would walk into the courthouse maybe 35 years ago you wouldn’t see any women, either as attorneys or as judges,” she said. “So that’s been a really positive thing here in Cameron County. In terms of a glass ceiling, does it still exist?

Absolutely. ... Yes, there is a glass ceiling. We just have to accept it and deal with it.”

Chaney represents employers and management personnel who are sued for discrimination.

“Sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, age discrimination, race discrimination, anything covered by what we call Title 7,” she explained.

Joiner said women have to find “those three power words that really speak to what truly gives you joy.”

“My three power words are to inspire, to

ignite and to advance positive purpose,” she said. “There are three power words that are out there for you to identify and really grab a hold of and let that be your guide.”

The power web of women’s leadership goes far and wide as Yznaga informed the audience: “Dr. García, our [UT-Brownsville] president was named one of Fortune magazine’s 50 Most Influential World Leaders. Do you know how incredible that is? President Obama didn’t even make the list and Juliet García did. She was bestowed that on

her because of what she is doing in this region and this community and people recognize her for that.”

The panel discussion was sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement.

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Women compete in Bluebonnet Classic

Golf teams struggle in Primm Battle

By Michelle Espinoza
THE COLLEGIAN

The UT-Brownsville Women’s Golf Team is competing today and Tuesday in the Bluebonnet Classic tournament at the Tangle Ridge Golf Club in Dallas hosted by Northwood University.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Golf Coach Daniel Hayden told *The Collegian* he expects the team to improve from its recent ninth-place finish at the Primm Battle Tournament in Nevada.

“I expect them to be able to bounce back from this last event in Vegas and figure out what each one of their weaknesses were and be able to capitalize all of them for this event,” Hayden said. “So I do expect them to play a lot better.”

The women will face off against seven other teams in Dallas.

Both the men’s and women’s golf teams competed in the Primm Battle Tournament, held March 24 and 25 at the Primm Valley Golf Club in Las Vegas, Nev.

“On the women’s side, we had a rough first round and on the men’s side, they played well, they just got beat and there’s



PHOTO COURTESY UTB ATHLETICS

Veronica Vasquez earned an overall score of 169, the best among fellow Ocelots at the Primm Battle Tournament, held March 24 and 25 in Las Vegas, Nev.

nothing that we can do about that,” Hayden said.

The women finished ninth out of 11

teams in the Primm Battle, which was hosted by Grand View University. The women earned a two-day combine score

of 732. Veronica Vasquez had the best score for the UTB women, 86-83-169; followed by Angela Zepeda, with 90-88-178; Elizabeth Garza, 93-88-181; and Paulette Tostado, 109-95-204.

Northwood University shot a total score of 609 to finish in first place. Northwood player Micaela Johansson won individually with scores of 77-69-146.

In the men’s competition, UTB placed 17th out of 18 teams with an overall score of 916. Oklahoma City University garnered first place with a final score of 850. The individual winner of the tourney was Nicolas Herrera of Bellevue University, with scores of 68-72-69 for a total of 209, according to a news release from the UTB Athletics Department.

Saad Milan tied in 32nd place with scores of 70-78-73-221. Fellow Ocelot Eric Cavazos earned scores of 80-73-76-229; Justin Kitten, 75-78-78-231; Michael Fasci, 80-84-78-242; and Jon Ybarra, 86-77-84-247.

Asked about both teams’ weaknesses, Hayden replied, “We’re going to work extremely hard on our short game and on our wedges. I believe that really hurt us a lot around the greens, hurt us a lot.”

The men will compete next in the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament, scheduled April 20.

UTB, UTPA athletics work on consolidation issues

By Victoria Brito
THE COLLEGIAN

The clock is ticking, and with the consolidation of UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan American fast approaching, many are wondering what this means for the future of collegiate sports in the Rio Grande Valley.

According to the UT System’s Project South Texas website: “Once the new university president is appointed, campus work groups will be formed to review how athletic teams and student teams, groups, alumni and other organizations will be organized and operate in the new university.”

“Just like everything that’s going on around the university as a whole, we’re still working on the consolidation issues,” UT-Brownsville Athletics Director Todd Lowery said. “It’s still pretty unclear exactly what’s going to happen at this point.”

Once the consolidation happens, the athletics departments of both universities will merge into one.

“It will be a Division I program and as far as sorting through teams and players, that’s something that we still have to work through this summer and next fall,” Lowery said. “The new university will be an NCAA Division I university and we’ll stay in the Western Athletic Conference, which is the current conference that UTPA is in.”

UTB’s volleyball team is the defending NAIA national champion. The university also has men’s and women’s golf, soccer and cross country teams. UTPA is an NCAA Division I school, with the same sports as UTB, plus baseball and men’s and women’s basketball teams.

It is still unclear where the different athletic games will be played. Both UTB and UTPA each have their own sports facilities.

“That’s something that we’re still working through,” Lowery said. “There’s

talk of some of the sports down here, some of the sports up there. We’re still evaluating the facilities. We have some facilities that they don’t, they have some facilities that we don’t, so that’s something the committee is still working through.”

During the process of the consolidation, working groups were formed to make the transition smoother and determine what is best for the future of UT-RGV.

“There are two separate working groups [for athletics],” Lowery said. “We have an internal working group like much of the divisions on campus did. That involved people from our department and our campus and their campus, and then, there is also an external working group that was put together by UT System that’s looking at these.”

Duties of working groups are to put together ideas of what is best for the student athletes and what is going to be best for the athletics program in the future.

“Our working committee here was comprised of several people from athletics, some people from kinesiology,” Lowery said. “The committee on the other side was people from their athletic department and staff as well. We’ve pretty much wrapped up our working group here on campus. UT System also has an external working group that has a handful of Division I athletic directors, former athletic directors, UT System counsel, to help work through all the legal issues that we might face.”

On the UT System’s UT-RGV Athletic Committee are Alan Marks, assistant vice chancellor of Academic Affairs & Athletics Counsel for the UT System; Lynn Hickey, athletics director of UT-San Antonio; Deloss Dodds, special assistant to the president of UT-Austin and former athletics director of UT-Austin; Ricardo Hinojosa, chief judge of the Southern District of Texas; and Mike Jacobsen, former athletic director at Utah Valley University.

Asked if he was in contact with the UTPA athletics department, Lowery replied: “Chris King, the athletic director

at UTPA, and I have a very, very good working relationship and we pretty much communicate weekly, sometimes more than that on issues that come up and different things. But we’re definitely in communication and trying to develop a plan that’s the best for the new university and best for athletes on both sides.”

Just as student athletes are unclear of what is to come, so is the athletic staff.

“We’re still working through staffing issues and athlete issues—who stays, who goes, those kinds of things,” Lowery said. “We do have duplicates in some sports, so there’s going to be some decisions to be made.”

Asked how the next academic year will operate in the athletics department, Lowery replied: “As of right now, we’re going forward as business as usual for next year. We don’t expect any changes in our scheduling, those kind of things. So, we’re working forward to have another great season in all our sports next year. We have modified our recruiting, a little bit, as far as kids, you know, making sure they’re aware of the situation and those kind of things which it’s been difficult for some of our coaches, especially teams that had to replace a lot of seniors. It’s been a tough recruit to get kids in, but the kids that we do have coming in are aware of the situation and they’re here to basically put one great season together into each sport, and that’s what we’re looking to do at this point.”

The search for an athletics director for UT-RGV has not yet begun.

“The first and foremost is to hire a president,” UT System Executive Director of Public Affairs Jenny Caputo said. “It will be up to the president to look at organizational structure and hire those key people that he or she need to work with.”

Asked if he was interested in the job, Lowery replied: “No. I’m not really interested in being a Division I athletic director. I’m more interested in moving back towards the coaching side of things and focusing my attention there.”

Lowery said there will be options for student athletes if they don’t want to

play and they want to finish their degree, where they will continue to keep their scholarship, as they did with baseball players when UT-Brownsville and Texas Southmost College decided to end their partnership.

“Our athletes are along with our staff, they’re kind of along with our staff, they’re here focused to do the best job they can next year,” Lowery said. “And after next year, we’ll see what happens and we’ll help them land in the best situation or them.”

There have been talks of adding sports, such as football and women’s softball, Lowery said.

“Once you get into the NCAA Division I level, there’s a lot you got to look at, Title IX and those kind of things and scholarship opportunities. I think as the university grows, I definitely think athletics will grow.”

It is still unclear as to where athletic events will take place.

“Decisions on athletics haven’t been made yet, but we do know that UT-RGV will be one university,” Caputo said. “There won’t be separate teams. ... All those decisions have to be made about what sports we will have. ... Decisions on where practices will be, because there are two campuses, those are very important questions that still have to be answered.”

Asked if there will be any layoffs due to the consolidation, Caputo replied: “That I don’t know and we haven’t been able to answer that question for any faculty or staff with the merging of the two universities, but the chancellor has said time and again that we’re looking at growth, not retraction, so in the long run, this is going to be a positive in terms of employment opportunities.”

Lowery sees many challenges ahead for the athletics departments. “The kids that are coming in are going to have their opportunity to move to the Division I level, whether it’s here or at the new university or at a university somewhere else,” Lowery said. “All our kids, I think, will have opportunities to continue to play.”

Tan solo 30% cumplieron con la fecha de prioridad de FAFSA

No se garantiza que otros recibirán financiamiento a tiempo

Por Cleiri Quezada

EDITORA DEL COLLEGIAN

Tan solo 30 por ciento de los 8,500 estudiantes quienes asistieron a *UT-Brownsville* completaron *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* para la fecha de prioridad de marzo 1.

El director de Ayuda Financiera de UTB Arnoldo Trejo dijo que como 85 por ciento de la población estudiantil recibe algún tipo de asistencia y cree

que la razón por la cual 70 por ciento de los estudiantes que no han metido una solicitud es porque no han llenado sus declaraciones de impuestos.

“Y seré el primero en admitir que estas solicitudes no son las solicitudes más fáciles de completar,” Trejo le dijo a *The Collegian* en una entrevista telefónica el miércoles. “El FAFSA, por sus siglas en inglés, es un documento federal que es distribuido por el departamento de

educación para propósitos de ayuda financiera y no tenemos ningún control local de lo que incluye pero no obstante, tuvimos una serie de talleres en los meses de febrero y marzo para asistir a los estudiantes a completar el documento”.

Los estudiantes que no completaron el FAFSA para marzo 1 no tendrán garantizado que su ayuda llegue a tiempo para las fechas límites del pago de la inscripción.

“No seas uno de esos estudiantes que aplica en julio y después espera que su ayuda sea procesada, porque no será procesada”, Trejo dijo. “Quiero decir, lo será, pero ya en el semestre de otoño. ¿Pero cuándo es que tienes que pagar tú inscripción, tus libros y útiles escolares? Es al principio de clases”.

Estudiante de segundo año de ingeniería en tecnología Diego Ramon no ha completado su FAFSA porque sus padres no han llenado su declaración de impuestos.

“Estoy en el proceso de [meter la solicitud para financiamiento], pero va a tomar tiempo”, dijo Ramon, quien espera completar su solicitud para el final de esta semana.

Trejo dijo que la oficina de ayuda financiera está tomando un enfoque proactivo en asegurarse de que los estudiantes completen su FAFSA.

“No puedo endulzar este mensaje más, esa es la manera en la que será porque embotellará el sistema y odiaría que cualquier estudiante no se inscribiera por falta de un recurso financiero”, él

dijo. “Estamos en el negocio de conseguir que las personas asistan a la escuela, no de que se salgan de la escuela”.

Edna Cameron, una estudiante de educación especial, dijo que metió una solicitud para FAFSA lo más pronto que pudo.

“Los más pronto que veo que comienza la inscripción, empiezo a ver cuándo tengo que actualizar mi FAFSA”, Cameron dijo.

Como una veterana, no tiene ningún otro tipo de ingresos financieros más que su cheque mensual de veteranos.

Cameron anima a los estudiantes a completar el FAFSA lo más pronto posible.

“Háganlo lo más pronto posible”, ella dijo. “Aunque te hayan rechazado, siempre puedes volver a meter una solicitud. Nunca sabes lo que sucederá. Puede ser que no seas elegible en este período académico. Lo peor que te pueden decir es que no”.

Aunque no tengan garantizado una premiación de financiamiento a tiempo para el otoño del 2014, Trejo dijo que aún estudiantes pueden meter una solicitud.

“En este momento, el mensaje es, si no cumples con la fecha, pero si terminas el proceso hoy, tendrás una gran oportunidad de que sea procesado para agosto”.

Para meter una solicitud, los estudiantes pueden visitar el centro de servicios de inscripción en la torre del *Main Building* y pedir asistencia, visitar www.fafsa.gov o llamar al 882-8277.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Nestor Morales (derecha), un estudiante de matemáticas de cuarto año y mentor de ayuda financiera, asiste a estudiante de primer año de contabilidad Daniel Bolanos con una solicitud de *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* durante el primer taller de *Financial Aid Nights*, el pasado 10 de febrero en el centro de inscripción en la torre de *Main Building*.

WRITER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

reading. “[I graduated] from Goucher College in Towson, Md. It was a women’s college at the time. I wanted to go to a private liberal arts women’s college. I had a double major: pre-legal studies and psychology.”

After the reading, Gomez told the audience she was inspired by punk rocker Patti Smith and Native American poet, musician and author Joy Harjo.

“I saw [Smith] on SNL or some TV show and she’s wearing no makeup, no gaga gimmicks, and a T-shirt that was ripped up, and no shoes,” she said to an audience of about 25. “She cuts to the chase. ... I’ve seen [Joy Harjo] perform numerous times with her band, Poetic Justice. She’s very remarkable. I’m afraid of her. When I’m afraid of other writers, that means *¡Ya!* It’s good because it keeps me trying harder.”

Although Gomez has not published a book of her own, she has been invited to submit her work to anthologies.

“I first was published in anthologies because people invited me,” she said during the interview. “They’d ask me to submit. Sometimes it would be a specific piece. It wasn’t until I was about 27.”

Currently, Gomez is preparing for a visual arts show that was scheduled to open Sunday in Irving.

“[It is] called ‘Nature Bats Last,’” she said. “It’s an environmental theme show. There will be scripts and visual art pieces that are going to be displayed together. The scripts were written by 12 people. I’m the creator. Twelve people wrote one-minute scripts, and then the scripts were given or assigned to a different visual artist and they interpreted the scripts. You get to see the script and then

the piece that was inspired by it.”

Most of Gomez’s writing spans different arts, including music, poetry and theater.

“That’s how poetry should live, I think,” she said. “Too often it stays on a page and unread or not shared out loud. I think the experience of reading poetry out loud is really valuable because it leads people to have conversations about important subjects and themes that we may not easily come to do on our own.”

Asked what advice she has for students, Gomez replied: “Be open to all sources of information, and let yourself be open to the idea of getting excited by lots of types of material. If you’re a musician, go watch a dance concert. If you’re a dancer, go hear jazz music. If you’re a linguist, go explore gardens. I think too many people peg themselves into one area of expertise and interest and don’t diversify. It’s a way of dooming yourself to a very limited scope of human existence. ... I think it’s great to specialize, but I think we need to diversify our interests--especially when we’re young. I think it’s important, for young people, to experiment and try things--don’t be afraid to jump off a cliff. I don’t mean literally.”

Among the audience was senior English major Mihir Shah.

“I love the readings because they add a new perspective to your idea of what life is,” Shah said. “It also adds culture to a society that’s based on materialistic things. It adds a little bit of out-of-the-box thinking. I love reading in general, but I also love listening to people read their work because it’s always different than the way you imagine it. ... I think that students should come to these events because people need to get out of their own heads, and this is a great place to do that and to enjoy somebody else’s

Bicycle Poem (the first)

*I peddle gently
across oltoorf street,
organic apple
clamped by front teeth,
I see an opening
for my bike,
the apple sweet
on the road to my belly...!*

*I peddle quietly
except for the whir of the chain,
I not at the neighbors
through the wind,
and NOT a windshield,
they wave at me
in their jackets,
and cannot believe
I am not cold.*

*no, no--!
I sweat in 3 layers,
so I become gradually slow
to a stop,
remove the top
and wrap it around my waist,*

*there is no clock on my wrist,
I do not need to move in haste.*

*I peddle methodically
climbing up mountain or hill,
knowing soon I’ll reach the top,
to coast towards Hooter’s can be
exhilarating thrill...!*

*I peddle relaxed,
pushing pedals, and
I feel every rock and street crack
and sometimes plates of metal,
but this keeps me grounded
and allows the internal reservoir
of contentment to bubble up
and make me feel giddy inside...!!*

*as rushing drivers defy my silence:
they think to vanquish me in their
dusty sad exhaust [coughs],
they’re pushing a little pedal to the
floor,
it’s less than 12 inches but they act like
it’s more...! (3x)*

--Tammy Melody Gomez

experiences and thoughts.”

English Assistant Professor Christopher Carmona said Gomez was chosen because of her involvement in the community.

“She is one of the prominent poets in the Texas scene,” Carmona said. “She’s a versatile playwright, screenwriter, poet

and, of course, activist. ... She’s different because she’s more performance-based. It gives the audience a different perspective on writers.”

Carmona said a list of writers has already been picked for the next academic year, but the series is still securing a budget.

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**Voting Days: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday, April 8,
8 a.m.-10 p.m. Wednesday, April 9
8 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 10**

Results will be announced Friday, April 11

All students interested in running for a seat in the Student Government Association are encouraged to submit a completed application form.

Application forms are available in the Office of Student Engagement and online at utb.edu/sga. Completed applications are due by Thursday,

April 3, to the Office of Student Engagement, located in Student Union 1.28. Candidates are required to attend an Election Advisory Meeting with

the SGA Advisors on Friday, April 4. Campaign material may not be distributed to the student body until after the Election Advisory Meeting.

For more information or for questions, please contact Stephen Cisneros at 956-882-7193 or contact by email at stephen.cisneros@utb.edu.

